

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

This Amendment amends Claims 1-3; and adds new Claims 4-8. Support for the amendment is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. In particular, support for Claim 2 is found in Claim 1. Support for new Claim 4 is found in the specification at least at page 18, lines 6-9. Support for new Claim 5 is found in the specification at least at page 17, lines 5-7. Support for new Claim 6 is found in the specification at least at page 19, lines 15-16. Support for new Claim 7 is found in the specification at least at page 19, lines 22-23. Support for new Claim 8 is found in the specification at least at page 19, lines 19-22. No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 1-8 will be pending in this application.

Claim 2 is independent.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, in light of the remarks that follows.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the obviousness-type double patenting rejection(s) set forth in the Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims; or with a timely filed Terminal Disclaimer. Office Action at page 8, section 10. Claim 2 is rewritten in independent form and a Terminal Disclaimer is attached, as discussed below.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2001/0031828 or U.S. Patent No. 6,645,632 (collectively "Honda") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,268,033 ("Oka"). In addition, Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Honda and Oka in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,728,473 ("Inoue").

However, Claim 2 is not rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claim 2 is rewritten in independent form, and Claims 1 and 3 are amended to depend from Claim 2. Thus, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Claim 1 is rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 4 and 5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,645,632 ("Honda-632") in view of Oka. Claim 3 is rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 4 and 5 of Honda-632 in view of Oka and Inoue. Claim 3 is rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 3-6 and 9 of U.S. Patent No. 6,949,619 ("Ichiroku") in view of Oka and Inoue.

However, Claim 2 is not rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 4 and 5 of Honda-632 in view of Oka, or over Claims 3-6 and 9 of Ichiroku in view of Oka and Inoue. Claim 2 is rewritten in independent form, and Claims 1 and 3 are amended to depend from Claim 2. Thus, the obviousness-type double patenting rejection over Claims 4 and 5 of Honda-632 in view of Oka, and the obviousness-type double patenting rejection over Claims 3-6 and 9 of Ichiroku in view of Oka and Inoue, should be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 3-6 and 9 of Ichiroku in view of Oka. To obviate the obviousness-type double patenting rejection, a Terminal Disclaimer over Ichiroku is attached.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attached: Terminal Disclaimer over U.S. Patent No. 6,949,619 ("Ichiroku")